

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIGS. 1-2. This sheet, which includes FIGS. 1-2, replaces the original sheet including FIGS. 1-2. In each of these figures, elements 131 and 133 have been added to accommodate the Examiner's request.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

In the September 12, 2006 Office Action, claims 1-19 were rejected and the Specification was objected to. This Response amends claims 1, 13-15 and 19 and cancels claim 18 without prejudice or disclaimer. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-17 and 19 (18 total claims; 5 independent claims) remain pending in the application. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

DRAWING OBJECTIONS

New drawing figures showing the laser gain medium 131 and lasing cavity 133 are submitted with this response. Reconsideration is requested.

OBJECTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION

We have reviewed the Specification and made several amendments to correct obvious typographical errors as suggested by the Examiner. Support for the inserted language can be found in the original Specification at, for example, paragraph 0030 and in claim 14. No new matter is entered by these amendments, and reconsideration is requested.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

The Office Action has requested clarification of the differences between various claims and US Patent Publication No. 2003/0010889 ("Igasaki"), as well as US Patent No. 6,782,016. While we respectfully believe that significant differences do exist between our inventions and the cited references, it is not necessary to point out these distinctions at this point because each of the claims now recites elements previously indicated as allowable. More particularly, each of the claims now recites the gain medium and lasing cavity previously recited in claim 14, which the Office Action indicated as allowable. These amendments are made solely for purposes of expediting allowance, and are not intended as a concession of patentability or as a surrender of any legal equivalents that may otherwise be available. We specifically reserve the right to assert the patentability of broader claims at a later date, such as in a continuation or divisional application.

In conclusion, for the reasons given above, all claims now presently in the application are believed allowable and such allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to further discuss this application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at (480) 385-5060.

If for some reason Applicants have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent abandonment on this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

INGRASSIA FISHER & LORENZ

Dated: December 8, 2006

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